

THE
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Vitam regit Fortuna, non sapientia.

CICERO.

ORIGINAL CRITICISM.

A Treatise on the Origin, Progress, Prevention, and Treatment of Consumption. By John Reid, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Senior Physician to the Finsbury Dispensary, and Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Medicine. 8vo. Pr. 317. Phillips. London.

THIS work will not fail to excite a peculiar interest, as it treats of a most formidable and frequent disease—a disease which seldom, or never, fails to destroy the object of its attack, and which may be said to be the very scourge of these islands. How often does it break in upon the happiness of the domestic circle, laying its brightest hopes—the promising son or amiable daughter—in an untimely grave? What numbers does it yearly, nay, daily, add to the bills of mortality? The subject of the work before us, therefore, comes home to the bosom of every one—to the individual for himself, the parent for his family, the politician for the welfare of the state. If, as the author has well observed in his preface, “if, amidst the various modifications of disease incident to man, there be one which claims a pre-eminent attention, both from the medical profession, and the public at large, it is *that*, the elucidation of whose nature, origin, progress, and treatment, constitutes the principal object of the following pages.”

The importance of the subject, therefore, demands that we should not pass it over in a cursory manner: we shall follow our author throughout the greatest part of his work, and then offer a few general observations.

He is professedly a disciple of the Brunonian school, and the principles of the *Elementa Medicinæ*, generally speaking, are the groundwork of all his reasonings. In his introductory chapter, therefore, after pointing out the difficulties of defining diseases, and the ancient and modern hypotheses concerning pulmonary consumption, he states the outlines of the Brunonian doctrine, which, says he, "whatever may be its extravagancies or defects, is the only theory of medicine that, in its first principles, rests upon the firm and indestructible base of a genuine philosophy."

His second chapter contains the anatomy of the lungs, &c.; and, in the third, he naturally proceeds to the consideration of the agent which operates upon them—the air of the atmosphere. He first states the opinions of the ancient philosophers on this subject; secondly, he adverts to the discovery of its physical properties; thirdly, he traces the steps by which the moderns were led to the important discovery of its chemical composition; and concludes with an account of the manner in which the analysis of atmospherical air is best effected, and of the most remarkable sensible qualities possessed by each of its constituent parts.

In the fourth chapter, our author considers the physiology of respiration; and he informs us, that "it is to what has generally been regarded as the chemistry of respiration (if he be allowed the expression), he purposes to confine his observations." But before he engages in considering the change which the air undergoes from its reception into the vesicles of the lungs, he acquaints his reader with the nature of this important discovery. He then adverts to the chemical theory of respiration, as connected with animal temperature, and proceeds to offer some objections to it, observing, in conclusion,

"That the extensive improvements in chemistry, in their application to the philosophy of life, can merely be instrumental, by enlarging our sphere of knowledge with respect to the action of exciting powers on the irritable or vital principle. Animate and inanimate nature cannot be made to amalgamate even in the ingeniously constructed crucible of the modern chemist."—"Man has been restored to his proper station in the centre"—"a station which he will obstinately and proudly maintain, notwithstanding the powerful allurments of chemical attractions."

From these observations, it might seem that our author is no great admirer of chemical physiology: he delivers his doctrine on this subject at the commencement of his fifth chapter,

"That various processes take place in the animate body," says he, "which, with respect to their partial operation, deserve to be regarded as strictly chemical, the writer of these pages by no means intends to dispute. From the cursory remarks which have been offered in the preceding chapter, on the subject of respiration as connected with animal temperature, it will be seen, that the advantages derived from what the author considers an appropriate application of the doctrines of chemistry to the science of living existence, are admitted in all their extent. While, however,

however, the utility is acknowledged of chemical physiology, both as it relates to the philosophy of life, and the origin and nature of several disordered affections, the combinations of chemistry ought always to be regarded as subordinate to, and effected by, the agency of the vital principle."

The remainder of this chapter is employed in considering the cutaneous perspiration, and its connexion with the temperature of the body, as illustrated by Dr. Currie, and in some general remarks on the qualification required in the reception of his doctrine.

From the anatomy and physiology of the pulmonary organs, the reader's attention is transferred to their respective disordered conditions, as far as such disorders have relation to genuine consumptive affections. These disorders, according to the author, are, hæmoptysis, catarrh, pneumonia, and tubercles, to the consideration of each of which, he allots a separate chapter.

It is to be understood, however, that genuine pthisis is not always preceded by other affections.

"Genuine pthisis," says he, "so far from occurring invariably, as a consequence of pulmonary hæmorrhage, frequently, and for the most part, originates without the intervention of actual or decided disease. The insidious approach of consumption of the lungs, constitutes, indeed, its principal characteristic. The fabric of the constitution is frequently destroyed, by its foundation being gradually and imperceptibly undermined. The disorder has often been firmly rooted in the system, before the superficial observer has even suspected its existence."

It is true, however, as our author adds, that "pulmonary consumption is not unfrequently preceded by other affections;" and therefore he has very properly introduced the consideration of these affections, before he proceeds to point out "the more secret, silent, and circuitous march of this destructive enemy to the human race."

The sixth chapter, in the order of the work, therefore, is dedicated to the consideration of hæmoptysis, as a precursor of pulmonary consumption; and we have, first, a detail of its symptoms, and, then, of its exciting causes.

Here the author premises, "in illustration of the manner in which these causes operate in the production of the disease, that the term hæmorrhage necessarily implies debility. This debility may be either partial or general; either produced in a direct or indirect manner. That weakness which occasions rupture in any portion of the vascular system, may arise from inordinate force in the circulating power overcoming the tone of vessels, in the part particularly injured, or it may be consequent upon deficient excitement of the general frame, directed, by accidental circumstances, to such part.

"Had these simple and incontrovertible principles been retained in the memory," continues he, "and acted upon by the framers of hypotheses on the pathology of hæmorrhage, many absurd doctrines, and unfounded speculations on the nature, and, as it is termed, without much precision of language,

language, proximate cause, of these affections would have been prevented; but the simplicity of truth has been disregarded for the pomp of verbose philosophy, and accumulations of error have been the unavoidable consequence."

Having made these preliminary observations, the author proceeds to the consideration of the exciting causes of the disease in question; and here he combats the opinion, that "a sudden diminution in the weight of the atmosphere overcoming the tonic and retentive power of the vascular organization," is a direct or immediate cause of this affection; summing up his doctrine in the following words: "To undue action, occasioning debility, and consequent rupture of vessels, are we, therefore, to ascribe the occurrence of pulmonary hæmorrhage, and not to the mechanical production of laxity from unequal pressure, or the rarefaction and expansion of circulating blood."

On these principles, generally speaking, he lays down the treatment of this disease; first offering some introductory observations, in which he cautions against the danger of indiscriminate depletion; then proposing and discussing the following question: *astringents—in what manner do they operate?* and lastly, considering its particular treatment.

We come now to the seventh chapter of this interesting work, which treats of catarrh, its obvious and more particular connexion with pthisis pulmonalis, its symptoms, causes, and general treatment.

The eighth chapter is employed in considering pneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs, its similarity with catarrh, the improper distinctions of authors in respect to catarrh and pneumonia, its symptoms, its causes, and its cure.

We class these two chapters together, because our author considers catarrh and pneumonia as being similar in their nature, and differing only in degree*.

"A cold," says he, "if the term be applied to denote inflammatory defluxion, from that portion of the vascular and very irritable membrane which is not merely confined to the nostrils, fauces, and trachea, but is extended through the whole internal surface of the lungs, has not merely an intimate connexion with an actual inflammation of these organs, but is, in reality, the same disease, differing alone in degree. This identity of catarrhal and pulmonary inflammation it is important to recollect. Nothing, perhaps, is more injurious to medical science than an exuberant multiplicity

* His reasons for treating of them separately are in the following words: "it may therefore excite surprize, that the author should devote a separate chapter to the consideration of pneumonia, as a disorder precursory of consumption. To this distinction he has been directed, principally from a consideration of the dissimilar manner in which the foundation is laid of genuine pthisis, by the different degrees of pulmonary inflammation; and, indeed, however erroneous may be the principles upon which scientific nomenclature is established, considerable innovations are invariably to be regarded as involving the hazard of experiment."

of nosological distinctions, which, in reality, serve no other purpose than to mislead and betray. By regarding that membrane which lines the internal surface of the nostrils, as extended through the bronchia, and, at length, forming those numerous air-vesicles of the lungs which have already been described as one continued, very vascular, and irritable covering to this large expansion of surface, comprehension will be materially assisted in tracing the intimate connexion of the respective disorders of these organs, which have been erroneously imagined to possess a specific variety in character, and the gradations, from slight or incipient catarrh to genuine and confirmed consumption, will thus present themselves to view, unobscured by the clouds of artificial discrimination."

This simple and connected view of the subject we cannot but admire, and, in a practical point of view, it is of the greatest utility. But our author does not stop here; from catarrh and pneumonia, he extends his reasoning to pleuritis, pointing out the connexion among all forms of pulmonary inflammation, whatever complexional character they may, at different times, assume.

He founds his doctrine on the similarity of the exciting causes of these inflammations.

"In consequence of improper exertion of muscular energy, inhalation of air too stimulating in quality, excitation of violent passions; or improper exposure to heat or cold; a rupture of blood-vessels, and consequent hæmorrhage from the lungs; a species of temporary catarrh, or an inflammatory affection of part of the mucous membrane, or a more violent irritation in these organs and their surrounding membranes, according to constitutional susceptibility, shall be respectively occasioned."

We would fain follow our author through his *rationale* of the exciting causes of catarrh and pneumonia, and his treatment of these diseases, as well as advert to his observations on the eruptive disorders which have a reference to the production of pthysical disorganization, and the mode which he proposes in obviating their tendency to this effect; but, lest we should exceed our limits, and not have room to lay before our readers so full an analysis of the remaining parts of the work as their importance demands, we pass on to the ninth chapter, which relates to tubercles, and the different modes in which the lungs become ulcerated.

On these subjects, after some preliminary observations, the author inquires into the nature of tubercles, finds the opinion erroneous that they are indurated glands, describes their structure, and traces them from their beginning till they unite, and form *vomicæ*. He now investigates their origin and peculiarities, and opposes the opinion, that they are invariably of a scrophulous nature, observing, that

"Scrophula, perhaps, has no further relation, even to genuine tubercular pthisis, than by imparting an increase of susceptibility to those causes which, operating to a certain extent, would invariably occasion the disorder;" and that they "may be regarded as the consequence of slight and repeated inflammation, originating in the mucous membrane of

the lungs, and extending itself into the cellular texture of these organs, depositing the matter of which these bodies are constituted that remains unabsorbed and inactive, until excited into the formation of abscess by fresh and repeated irritation. When this inflammation is excited by causes that obviously act as mechanical irritants, the nidus of the tubercular bodies is frequently composed of a collection of such irritating materials as in the instance of stone-cutters. This circumstance likewise occurred in those experiments upon animals above alluded to, where the matter which produced the disease was found lodged in the centre of the tubercles which were thus evidently generated from external sources."

The nature and origin of tubercles being explained, he proceeds to consider the mode in which they produce confirmed consumption; and then we have the theory of pulmonary ulceration, as arising from hæmoptysis and pneumonia, and the chapter concludes with an account of the partial and confined ulcer of the lungs.

The tenth chapter is dedicated to the consideration of the disposing and immediately exciting causes of consumption; and here the author first considers the predisposition to phthisis from organic structure.—This is of two kinds—external and internal; the former applying "to the mere form and structure of the corporeal frame;" and the latter to "the mechanical and physical condition of the several materials that are ingredients in its composition." The former is described, and then he proceeds to the consideration of the serophulous temperament. Of this he mentions three varieties, and delineates them particularly as having an important relation to preventive medicine. Age and sex, and the occupations in life which assist predisposition, or obviously excite to pulmonary consumption, are the next subjects of consideration; and lastly, those occupations which occasion an immunity from it.

The eleventh chapter treats of the means of restraining the consumptive disposition. This is a most important subject, and the author has handled it with his usual acumen. It is written in a popular style, and he first adverts to the prospect of improvement in medicine, from the circulation of medical philosophy beyond the bounds of professional inclosure. He then proceeds to the proper business of the chapter, and considers the influence of particular climates and places, and of dietetic and medical regimen, in restraining the consumptive disposition. He views the danger of *empirical remedies for coughs, colds, and consumptions*, and the mode in which the phthisical tendency in infants is often engendered or increased. On these subjects he makes the following judicious remarks:

"Many consumptive affections have been originally implanted in the nursery, fostered by boarding school regimen, and made to expand by *infallible remedies for coughs, colds, and consumptions*. That hardy empiricism, however, which, for individual profit, occasions permanent and irreparable injury to the health and consequent happiness of either, unconscious or unsuspecting individuals, deserves, in an equal degree, the severity of reproach; nor can the plea of ignorance of consequences justly claim any thing

thing further than a slight mitigation of the austerity of censure."—
 "Consumptive is a vast pit-fall, situated on the high road of life."—
 "Empiricism is the treacherous hand which, under false pretences, conducts to its margin and precipitates the fatal descent. When the English nation shall be firmly convinced that *sweeteners of the blood, antiscorbutics; remedies for colds*, and according to the observation of the astonished Chinese philosopher,"—"for every disease to which the human frame is subject,"—"are either altogether inert, or highly injurious by their indiscriminate administration, and shall direct its attention to the judicious regulation of diet, clothing, and other means of counteracting the rigour of an inclement climate; disease, in general, will be of less frequent occurrence, and the list of consumptive affections will undergo a very considerable diminution."

We have now some observations on foxglove, or digitalis, and on clothing and habitations, as preventives of consumption. The subject of clothing the author resolves into two points—either as it relates to impediments in the growth and functions of the body, from inequalities of pressure, or as occasioning an improper exposure to irregularities, in external temperature; and as to habitations, he points out the superiority of other nations to the British in this respect, as well as the peculiarities of their dress, explaining the immunity of these nations from pthysical affections, and other diseases which depend on the undue action of temperature.

His next subject is exercise of the body in general, and of the pulmonary organs in particular, and he closes the chapter with a very important dissertation on warm and cold bathing.

In the twelfth chapter we are presented with the history and treatment of pulmonary consumption; and, in order to trace its characters with as much accuracy as the subject will permit, the author pauses at different stages of his progress, to introduce farther remarks on their origin, and on the method of treatment required in the different periods of the disorder.

In pursuance of this plan, he details the primary symptoms of the disease, and notices the irregularities of its approach, observing, that a series of symptoms are sometimes displayed, as indications of the occurrence and establishment of the disorder; while, at other times, a very slender foundation is afforded for suspicion, until doubt be exchanged for absolute certainty. The appearance of hectic fever, in a more or less exquisite form, he considers as the most distinctive mark of pthysical irritation in the pulmonary organs; and, therefore, he stops here to make some general observations on the characters and cause of this symptom.

He then proceeds with the history of the progress of the symptoms, and considers the treatment of the disease in its more early stages, observing, that "it is alone in the primary stages of the disorder, that we have a well-founded hope of being able to arrest its career;" and here his chief reliance is on digitalis. "Digitalis," says he, "is a remedy for pulmonary consumption in its earlier periods,

which, under due regulations, and with sufficient attention to other circumstances of regimen and diet, may be employed with a prospect of almost invariable relief." These circumstances and regulations he points out, and offers a theory of the mode in which digitalis produces its salutary effects.

But pulmonary consumption is not always a primary and unmixed disease; it often occurs in connexion with, and as a consequence of, other important derangements in the animal economy; it is often combined with chlorosis and amenorrhæa. In these cases the author modifies his method of cure, and directs his treatment to the primary disease, as the best mode of retarding, or removing the pulmonary affection.

Having discussed these topics, he offers some remarks on certain substances, which have either been employed as palliatives, or as specifics, in pulmonary consumption, and then returns to its history; tracing it in its confirmed stages, and concluding with some general observations on the treatment which has been proposed and adopted, when the lungs are unequivocally and extensively ulcerated.

We have now arrived at the thirteenth and last chapter of this important work, in the beginning of which the author points out the defects of nosology in general, and of the nosological definition of pthisis pulmonalis in particular, observing, that "we are left to search for other criteria of the essential nature of diseased affections, than those with which we are supplied by nosological systems, the ascertaining of which is incalculably important." He, therefore, employs the subsequent parts of this chapter, in presenting his reader with additional remarks on the counterfeit resemblances of genuine pulmonary disorganization; endeavouring, in the first place, to demonstrate the manner in which emaciation, debility and hectic, are often produced independently of disorder in the lungs; then, proceeding to trace the derivation, and mark the peculiarities of those coughs that are not consumptive, and offering some general suggestions on the different sources of pains in the breast, and impeded respiration; and now, after attempting to describe the mode in which these expressions of disease, whether exhibited separately, or union, are most effectually subdued, concluding the subject with a few concise and well-written remarks, which we shall lay before our readers, as they contain a connected summary of the author's doctrines.

"The facility of obviating a constitutional tendency to, or repressing the primary symptoms of, pthisis pulmonalis, is proportioned to its difficulty of cure when the characters of the disorder are fully confirmed, and the texture of the lungs almost wholly destroyed.

"Preventive measures should commence with infancy. The physical temperament, like the moral character, retains through life the stamp of early impression."

"A regular supply of nutritive aliment, such a mode of dress as is not calculated in any measure to interrupt growth, or impede functions, with unrestrained exercise, and the free enjoyments of an unsophisticated and

and salubrious atmosphere, are the most effectual barriers against the invasion of this disease.

“ That idea, however, which is by far too prevalent, of confirming health and ensuring hardiness by casual and transient exposure to natural or artificial severities, while an effeminate, or debilitating mode of living is indulged, appears fundamentally erroneous. The tender and fragile plant of the hot-house would be destroyed, or irrecoverably injured, by that degree of cold which is congenial and salutary to the growth of natural or unassisted vegetation.

“ The *living* fibre is not braced and strengthened upon the principles of mechanical corrugation, or chemical attraction. An indiscriminate employment of cold immersion too often establishes those symptoms of weakness which it is intended to remove, and accelerates the disorder that (which) it is imagined to prevent. That degree of cold which is unpleasing to the sensations, whether applied generally, or only to a part of the surface of the body, ought, in an especial manner, by the physician to be fearfully avoided. When pulmonary disease is actually present, this caution is still more requisite.

“ Transitions from an extremely high to a very low temperature may, for the most part, be made with impunity. It is the reverse transition from which danger is chiefly to be apprehended. What is denominated catching a cold, ought rather to be called catching a heat. The sudden application, however, of exterior heat, after its temporary subduction, is not absolutely necessary in order to produce the symptoms of catarrh.

“ Plunging into cold water, immediately after exercise, is attended with danger, in proportion to previous fatigue or exhaustion. It is in some measure upon similar principles, that catarrhs and consumptions are induced, by suddenly passing, from the crowded apartment of a midnight assembly, to a frigid and damp atmosphere.

“ Coughs are by no means absolute indications of catarrhal affection. The idea of *specific remedies for coughs and colds*, is founded upon a total ignorance of the laws and functions of the animal economy. It is equally inconsistent with, and contrary to both philosophical principles and actual experience, as (with) the vulgar and empirical notion of correcting impurities in the blood.

“ Urgent pain is often unaccompanied by inflammation, or increase of local excitement. It is in many instances consequent upon the difficulty and labour with which an enfeebled organ performs its accustomed and salutary action. An importunate demand for invigorating resources, is too commonly supplied by enervating powers.

“ The flushed cheek and emaciated appearance are the most faithful attendants upon genuine phthisis. Even these, however, are not absolute indications, either of the presence or absence of pulmonary consumption.

“ A familiarity with the physiognomy of this disease can only be acquired by an assiduous attention to its ever-varying shades, and by carefully marking its multifarious expressions. In proportion, however, to the difficulty of the task is the necessity of its accomplishment. Delays and errors are here especially to be dreaded. Decision comes too late, when not merely the nature of the disorder, but likewise its fatal termination, almost ceases to be a subject of doubt or inquiry. To know

know the rocks on which his vessel has foundered, affords but small consolation to the shipwrecked mariner."

Thus the author concludes his work, and we shall conclude our notice of it with a few general and brief observations.

During the prevalence of the humoral and phlogistic pathologies, pulmonary consumption, like all other diseases, was treated by anti-phlogistic regimen and antiphlogistic practice. Pains in the breast and difficulty of breathing were taken as sufficient indications of inflammation, obstruction, and plethora. Practitioners had no idea of "the difficulty and labour with which an enfeebled organ performs its accustomed and salutary action." They abstracted the vital fluid to remove plethora—they starved the patient by a strict and meagre diet to conquer a phlogistic diathesis. Hypotheses introduced the practice—custom sanctioned it, and, in spite of its never having cured one case of genuine consumption, fashion has handed it down almost pure until this very day.

A better philosophy presents the consumptive sufferer with better hopes. This philosophy our ingenious author has adopted in his work. He has viewed the causes of pulmonary consumption, and he has found it to be a disease of disorganization, or debility. On this doctrine he founds his leading indication of cure. Debilitating powers are to be avoided, and invigorating and restorative agents employed, such agents as may produce opposite effects to those which caused the disease—a method of cure which "rests upon the firm and indelible base of a genuine philosophy."

This work is written, partly in a popular style, and the author offers an apology to the medical reader for this part of his conduct, bidding him recollect that he "is sanctioned in such apparent deviation from regularity by the first and brightest names in his own profession." But why this apology? Surely the diffusion of knowledge among mankind, and a knowledge which, of all others, concerns them the most, requires the sanction of no authority. We hope to see the number of popular medical works daily multiplied—such as would circulate a "medical philosophy of a proper kind." Then, indeed, would the empirics be under the necessity of "burning their miserable wares;" for then would "the English nation be firmly convinced," that many of the substances which they employ as medicine, "are either altogether inert, or highly injurious." The man who lends his aid in the diffusion of this philosophy, is certainly a real benefactor to his country.

teenth year of war a loan is effected below the legal rate of interest, and our immense expences defrayed, without increasing the national debt one fiftieth of its amount: The country is not in such terror of France as to consent to any peace which does not effectually provide for their honour and security. They will support the East India Company against Mr. Fox in their refusal to intrust the care of our Indian Empire to a Nobleman who has proved himself incapable of acting either wisely of his own accord, or of taking prudent advice from others. They will withhold their confidence from that Ministry which bestows offices of trust and emolument on such men as the Treasurer of the Ordnance: and until they see a wiser choice of measures, with a more upright selection of servants, they will refuse to acknowledge the pretensions of the New Ministry (so modestly expressed in the publication which has been examined), 'to unite the largest portion of talents, experience, rank and integrity, which ever enabled a Government to secure influence with its subjects, and command respect among foreign nations.' The establishment of a Commission for Auditing the Public Accounts, to an amount *nominally* immense, may be a dexterous expedient for popularity; but the public will not accept it as a *real* discharge of the pledges so often given to effect that radical change, in which was affirmed to consist 'our only remaining chance of salvation.'

"An Administration, skilful only in heaping censures on their predecessors, will not now avail us. In that respect, the abilities of the present Ministry have long been undoubted. But the country now demands of them, 'Either prove to us by your actions that you surpass your predecessors, or resign, in unequivocal terms, the pretensions you have made.'

"If a secure and honourable peace can be obtained, there will be no necessity to prepare the public mind by the circulation of pamphlets, the obvious tendency of which is to disseminate depression. Unless the peace be secure and honourable, we shall act wisely to prefer war with all its burdens, to a deceitful truce with a tyrant so arrogant, so perfidious, and so insatiably ambitious as Buonaparte. Before we can intrust with confidence a Negotiation with so artful an adversary to Mr. Fox, he must give very different proofs of wisdom from any he has yet afforded; whether in his former erroneous sentiments of the French Ruler, in his late speeches in Parliament, or in sanctioning a pamphlet which accuses the head of Administration, while it insults the Country—which declares to the British Nation, 'that it is in vain to look around for any circumstance which may soften the gloomy picture drawn of its affairs, while it is impossible to imagine any addition which may aggravate them.'

"If Mr. Fox proceed in a course of such egregious imprudence; if while he proclaims moderation, he shall endeavour to force obnoxious men into the most important stations; if he flatter himself that by scattering abuse on his predecessors, he will blind the Nation to his own errors, or be acquitted by nominal reforms of the pledges he has given the country, the consequence will be a total loss of public confidence; and his present, like his former administration, will be the transient vision of a few months. Let him exemplify the wise, just, and moderate policy he has so long recommended, or he will in vain endeavour to soothe the public indignation

by such insidious appeals as the work we have now examined. Fallacy and misrepresentation have had their day."

Since this book was put into our hands, but a few days ago, it has, we understand, run through *three* editions; so that notwithstanding the advantages which the protection of the Ministry has afforded to the author of the Inquiry, the good sense of the nation has supplied an adequate balance, and will, no doubt, give to his antagonist the same superiority, in the extent of his sale, as he manifestly enjoys in every qualification for a writer; in knowledge, ability, and judgment, in exemption from prejudice, and in regard for truth.

MEDICINE, SURGERY, &c.

The Lectures of Boyer upon Diseases of the Bones; arranged into a Systematic Treatise. By A. Richerand, Professor of Anatomy and Philosophy, and Principal Surgeon to the Northern Hospital at Paris. Translated from the French by M. Farrell, M. D. 8vo. 2 vols. 15s. Murray, London; Bell and Bradgate, Edinburgh; Gilbert and Hodges, Dublin.

THE Professors of Surgery are much indebted to the *Translator* of the present Work, for thus bringing forward to their notice the celebrated *authors* of this Treatise. The Lectures of Boyer, and the systematic arrangement of Professor Richerand, deserve our highest commendation; and Dr. Farrell appears to have paid a scrupulous adherence to the preservation of their precise meaning. Their ideas are rendered in plain and intelligible language; and, as they are now presented to the British Public, these volumes will undoubtedly prove a most useful and valuable body of practical information.

The use of a complete Treatise, in English, on the *Diseases of the Bones*, must be acknowledged by all students in Surgery. The present work will expedite the progress of those who devote themselves to that branch of medical knowledge; and even veterans of the profession will find it highly useful for the purpose of occasional reference.

Chirurgical Institutes, drawn from Practice, on the Knowledge and Treatment of Gun-shot Wounds, illustrated with some singular Cases, and Cures of gallant Warriors. By H. St. Neale, Esq. formerly of his Majesty's Fifth Regiment of Infantry, and Sixteenth Regiment of Light Dragoons, during the late War in North America. 8vo. 6s. Egerton.

THE Practitioners of Surgery in general, but more particularly those of the army and navy, must feel considerable obligation to the author of these Chirurgical Institutes. They form a small practical volume on the knowledge and treatment of gun-shot wounds, founded upon reason and experience—a volume which ought to be in the hands of every practitioner

practitioner in this important branch of surgery. The author's mode of practice is illustrated by the singular cases of Generals Harris, and Simcoe, Major Ferguson, Captains Hawkland, and Van Nagel; Sergeant Miller and others; to which is added an ingenious inquiry into the nature and causes of suppuration in gun-shot wounds.

Inoculation for the Small-pox vindicated; and its superior efficacy and safety to the practice of Vaccination clearly proved. By George Lipscomb, Surgeon. 8vo. Pp. 44. Robinson. 1805.

MR. LIPSCOMB has been guilty of a trifling inaccuracy in his title page, in which the words *clearly proved*, should be changed for *boldly asserted*; because he *proves* only one part of his proposition, by adducing instances in which inoculation for the Cow-pox has not operated as a preventive of the Small-pox; and others in which it has been attended with more severe symptoms than *he* ever observed in a case of variolous infection. On the authority of Dr. Squirrell, indeed, he affirms that not more than *one* in a *thousand* die from Inoculation for the Small-pox; but, in the first place, the authority of Dr. S., however respectable, cannot amount to any thing like *clear proof*; and in the next place, to establish his position, it would be necessary to shew that *more* than one in a thousand die from vaccination, which he has not attempted to shew. The greater part of his pamphlet is filled with abstract arguments, intended to shew that the practice of vaccination has been admitted too readily, and that the reasoning on which it is founded is fallacious. But, in such a case, one *fact* is worth a hundred pages of *argument*; and therefore, we incline to consider the *facts* adduced by Mr. L. as the best and most convincing part of his pamphlet. These *facts* certainly prove that in several instances patients have received the variolous infection, after having been inoculated for the Cow-pox; and some have been more severely afflicted by the Cow-pox than persons are by the Small-pox, when both are produced by inoculation. The whole force of these cases will consist in this point; whether or no such patients were inoculated with proper matter? Mr. L. affirms that they were, and apparently on the best authority, and certainly that must be taken for granted until the contrary shall be proved. But the advocates for the Cow-pox will be unable to stand against their adversaries, if it be true, as Mr. L. asserts, that the efficacy of their practice cannot possibly be established until after a lapse of many years!

It remains to be shewn, whether the inoculation for the Small-pox, be really so harmless and so *infallible* as Mr. L. represents it. For our own part, we have, we confess, considerable doubts on that subject. Besides, Mr. L. does not allow sufficient force to a solid objection against the Small-pox Inoculation, from the facility which it affords to the spread of that dreadful contagion.

Observations on Vaccine Inoculation, tending to confute the Opinions of Dr. Rowley and others. By Henry Fraser, M. D. &c. 8vo. Pp. 34. 2s. Highley. 1805.

DR. FRASER is as ardent in his support of the Cow-pox Inoculation, as Mr. Lipscomb is in his opposition to it. The latter adverts to

the origin of this disease, which, on the authority of Dr. Jenner, he traces to the greasy heels of a horse, and thence deduces the inference that it will introduce scrophula into the human frame; but Dr. Fraser proves, very satisfactorily, that Dr. Jenner was mistaken in his opinion on this point, and that the Cow-pox never proceeds from the grease. After stating, generally, that none of the dairy farmers, in the different counties of Oxford, Wilts, Gloucester, and Worcester, with whom he had conversed on the subject, could impute the disease to such a source, he maintains the following fact, which appears to be decisive of the question.

"My own experience supplies me with the means of citing two instances, when the casual Cow-pox raged amongst those domestic animals kept upon two farms, where no horse of any description was employed, nor had any new cow been admitted to either of these pastures for two preceding years, and had a fair opportunity of ascertaining that this was the genuine disease, from the convincing circumstances of a maid servant on each becoming affected from milking the cows, both of whom have repeatedly and uniformly resisted the action of variola, whether applied by effluvia, or inoculation."

The Doctor draws a very fair inference from this fact—"Now if the Cow-pox can be produced without the agency of the grease, as this narrative renders sufficiently probable" (more than *probable* surely), "the consequent inference must be, that this agent is by no means necessary to the production of the disease. Also, if the Cow-pox be a certain prophylactic against the Small-pox, which, notwithstanding all the assertions made to the contrary, abundant experience doth most incontrovertibly testify, and if the matter of grease were in reality the original cause of this disease, it ought to follow as an indispensable consequence, that the one should have the same salutary influence over the constitution, when experienced, as the other, which we will prove to be in hostility with a fact."

The Doctor then mentions the case of a Mr. Turner, who, when a student at the Veterinary College, had contracted "a very peculiar disease," from dressing the greasy heels of a horse. He had never had the Small-pox, and so fully convinced was he that the disease which he had so contracted would operate as a preventive to the other, that he never would submit to be inoculated. After some time was elapsed, he suffered Dr. Woodville to inoculate him for the Small-pox, and he suffered very severely from the disease.

Dr. Fraser is of opinion that the Cow-pox and the Small-pox are one and the same disease, under different modifications; be that as it may, he has, we think, succeeded completely in establishing the error of Dr. Jenner, as to the origin of the former.

Here is an answer to Mr. Lipsecomb's assertion, of the impracticability of deciding on the efficacy of vaccination before the expiration of many years. "I have been informed of five instances, and have indeed seen three of these in the counties of Gloucester and Worcester, where the subjects were infected with the casual Cow-pox *fifty-seven years ago*; seven who were under the influence of this disease *forty-five years since*; and nine *between twenty and thirty years since*; all of whom being, as I am assured, aware of the power of this disease, have exposed themselves without fear or reserve to the effluvia of the Small-pox many times, and have as often resisted the contagion."

It would be of great consequence to give to these facts the strongest characteristics of authenticity, as the establishment of them would, more effectually than all the arguments which ingenuity and eloquence can urge, dispel the doubts which are so industriously circulated, of the permanent efficacy of vaccination. Dr. Fraser asserts, that no failure occurred in any case of inoculation for the Cow-pox under the immediate care of Dr. Woodville; and adds, "I am also credibly informed, that all the patients who have received the infection from the hands of Dr. Jenner, remain perfectly safe." As it is the duty of every one to promote the closest investigation of this subject, with a view to the establishment of truth, which ought to be the general object of every research; we will here mention that we have heard of a case, at Sydenham, in which patients, so circumstanced, were *not safe*. We have also heard of a failure (though not, we believe, under the care of Dr. Jenner) in the family of a learned divine, the Master of Christ's Hospital. We notice these cases for the purpose of stimulating inquiry; and if any other should come to our knowledge, we shall notice them for the same purpose.

Dr. Fraser, however, admits, for the sake of argument, "that some well-authenticated cases of failure have come to light in this country;" and further, that one in ten thousand shall be regularly liable to the Small-pox after vaccination; yet he contends, that the advantages in favour of the Cow-pox, are still most decisive; for it is acknowledged on the other hand, that one in a thousand die of variolous inoculation; therefore the odds in favour of the former over the latter are, upon a mere arithmetical calculation, *ten to one**; "not to say one word of the many, whose lives are endangered, of the several whose constitutions are irreparably ruined, and of some, whose beauty, a point of no small concern to females, is utterly destroyed." Dr. F. supports the opinion of those who have argued, "that there are (is) not a greater number of persons liable to the Small-pox, after vaccination, when judiciously performed, than are liable to the former disease a second time."

Under the next head of his inquiry, the Doctor contends, in the teeth of Mr. Lipscomb, though without any reference to him, "that the *most malign* cases of vaccine inoculation are comparatively *milder* than the *most benign* cases of variolous." He imputes accidents and failures, in the former, to the negligence and inattention of inoculators who generally perform the operation, and leave the patient to take care of himself. He also mentions several advantages, besides that of prevention, incidental to vaccination; first, that if performed on a patient who has the Small-pox, between the period of his first infection, and the first day of his consequent indisposition, it will diminish the virulence of that dreadful disease. Secondly, in four cases of scrophula, which have fallen under the notice of Dr. Fraser, vaccination effected a cure, when various other modes of treatment had been tried in vain. And thirdly, a case is mentioned, in which it cured a child who had the whooping-cough to such a degree, that her death was expected in a few days.

* Dr. Fraser afterwards denies, that there is any reason to infer that one patient, out of four or five hundred thousand, has fallen a victim to vaccination; for, he adds, "when fatality has occurred in subjects during the progress of this inoculation, causes, totally independent of the inoculation, and more than sufficient to occasion death, have been strikingly evident in every instance."

Letters to Dr. Rowley, on his late Pamphlet, entitled "Cow Pock Inoculation no Security against Small Pox Infection." By Aculeus. 8vo. Pp. 80. Symonds. 1805.

NOT having read Dr. Rowley's Pamphlet, we can only speak of its merits as they are to be collected from the extracts produced in these Letters. They are, however, amply sufficient to justify our assertion, that ignorance, affectation, and self-sufficiency, form some of the principal ingredients in Dr. Rowley's literary prescription. From such a man we never could have expected such a production; nor, indeed, from any member of the learned professions. The Letter-writer has, in a strain of pointed irony, exposed the weakness and absurdity of the Doctor, who had recourse to petty artifices, *ad captandum vulgum*, unworthy of his age and profession: we allude to the engraved frontispiece to his pamphlet, exhibited in the shop-windows of some of the metropolitan booksellers, which is only calculated to excite disgust at the author, and to deter all reasonable men from reading the book. Upon us, at least, it had the effect of a quack advertisement, which would take away all inclination—if any subsisted—to try the medicine it is intended to recommend. The cases professed to be exhibited in that odious picture, have been investigated, and are here narrated—and they only prove, that no artifice is too mean, no deception too flagrant, to be adopted by some persons in support of a favourite system.

MISCELLANIES.

A Compendium of Modern Husbandry, principally written during a Survey of Surrey, made at the Desire of the Board of Agriculture; illustrative also of the best Practices in the Neighbouring Counties, Kent, Sussex, &c. in which is comprised an Analysis of Manures, shewing their Chemical Constituents, and the proper Application of them to Soils and Plants of all Descriptions. Also an Essay on Timber, exhibiting a View of the increasing Scarcity of that important Article, with Hints on the Means of Counteracting it; together with a variety of Miscellaneous Subjects, peculiarly adapted to the present State of the internal Economy of the Kingdom. By James Malcolm, Land Surveyor to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York and Clarence. 3 vols. 8vo. Pp. 1616. 11. 16s. Baldwins.

MR. MALCOLM may be a very good man, but he would have been a much wiser one had he not presumed to write on the science of the statesman and chemist, to which his powers and informations are totally inadequate. Weak and superficial, however, as the contents of these volumes are, they nevertheless contain all the additional knowledge which the author has been able to acquire in ten years, since the first publication of his Report of the Agriculture of Surrey. During this period
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